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Message Text

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64
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

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APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
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---------- 007617
O 192335Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CIVAIR TALKS

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE CALLED IN SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR ALEXANDER BESSMERTNYKH TO INFORM HIM OF U.S. DESIRE TO BEGIN BILATERAL CIVAIR TALKS ON APRIL 26 IN WASHINGTON AND GAVE HIM THE FOLLOWING NONPAPER:

QUOTE. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE US-USSR CIVIL AVIATION CONSULTATIONS IN NOVEMBER 1975, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD, IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATIVE COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE AIRLINES.

THE US AUTHORITIES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR REVIEW OF THIS MATTER AND WILL SHORTLY BE IN A POSITION TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION HAS SUGGESTED THAT INTERIM TALKS BE HELD
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IN MARCH OR APRIL. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT IS

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DESIRABLE TO HOLD SUCH TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT

THEREFORE ACCEPTS THE SOVIET SUGGESTION AND PROPOSES THAT THE TALKS BE HELD BEGINNING APRIL 26 IN WASHINGTON. THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET IN MOSCOW FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS, IF THEY PROVE NECESSARY.

THE US AUTHORITIES EXPECT TO BE ABLE SHORTLY TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS WITH REGARD TO THE MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS. END QUOTE.

2. BESSMERTNYKH REPLIED THAT INVITATION IS GOOD NEWS AND THAT SOVIET CIVAIR DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO LEAVE MOSCOW ON APRIL 26. HE WILL ASK WHETHER THEY CAN DEPART ONE DAY EARLIER SO THAT THE TALKS MIGHT ACTUALLY BEGIN ON APRIL 26.

3. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO DEVELOP POSITION PAPER THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO SOVIETS WEEK OF APRIL 19 SO THEY WILL UNDERSTAND WE INTEND TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF REVENUE POOLING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PAN AM AND AEROFLOT. AT APRIL 26 MEETING WE HOPE AT LEAST TO OBTAIN SOVIET AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO POOLING ARRANGEMENT AND TO ESTABLISH SOME GUIDELINES. SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATING SESSIONS ARE LIKELY TO INVOLVE MORE DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY THE TWO AIRLINES. WE ARE AIMING FOR FINAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL SESSION BY END OF JUNE--PROBABLY IN MOSCOW.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY SLUG VISA CABLE FOR ATTENTION OF EUR/SOV (DIXON). KISSINGER

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